


## CONTEXT

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- Nicaragua is prone to numerous environmental shocks, including droughts, flooding, and landslides. The country also regularly experiences tropical storms during the June–November Atlantic hurricane season, which can result in flooding, damage structures, destroy crops, and disrupt livelihoods. Nicaragua’s western coastline is also susceptible to recurrent periods of drought, followed by heavy, irregular rains, which can trigger flooding and landslides. These recurring natural disasters—coupled with the economic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and sociopolitical instability—regularly exacerbate food insecurity among vulnerable populations in Nicaragua.
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- Hurricanes Eta and Iota—two consecutive storms that made landfall over Central America in November 2020—adversely affected nearly 3 million people in Nicaragua, particularly populations located in the North Caribbean Autonomous Region, according to the Government of Nicaragua (GoN). The storms limited access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for an estimated 500,000 people and left more than 730,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, the GoN and UN reported.
  - Populations in Nicaragua already faced constrained livelihood opportunities prior to Eta and Iota as a result of the country’s ongoing economic crisis and the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The storms further reduced livelihood opportunities and damaged staple crops, worsening food insecurity for vulnerable individuals. Consequently, approximately 500,000 people were likely to experience acute food insecurity in Nicaragua through August 2021, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

## ASSISTANCE

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- In response to hurricanes Eta and Iota, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided \$6.6 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 funding to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to support nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities in heavily affected areas of Las Segovias Region’s Jinotega and Nueva Segovia departments, as well as North Caribbean Autonomous Region. USAID/BHA is also supporting Save the Children and World Vision to distribute food and multipurpose cash assistance, conduct economic recovery activities, and provide health and protection services to storm-affected households in Jinotega, León, and Matagalpa departments, as well as North Caribbean Autonomous Region. Additionally, with support from USAID/BHA, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization is aiming to promote income generation and the recovery of livelihoods for

approximately 4,000 fishers in Nicaragua who were negatively affected by Eta and Iota. To date, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF has targeted an estimated 50,000 individuals affected by the two storms for emergency assistance in Jinotega, Matagalpa, and Nueva Segovia, as well as North Caribbean Autonomous Region.

- USAID/BHA provided approximately \$4.7 million in FY 2020 funding to partner World Vision to deliver food, health, protection, and WASH assistance to vulnerable populations in Nicaragua who were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. World Vision also conducted risk communication and community engagement messaging via radio to help reduce the transmission of coronavirus in the country. From September 2020 to May 2021, World Vision assisted nearly 98,300 individuals affected by COVID-19.



USAID/BHA provided \$6.6 million to UNICEF to provide WASH assistance to hurricane-affected households in Nicaragua. Photo Credit: UNICEF

| USAID/BHA Funding in the Nicaragua <sup>1</sup> |                        |             |                           |
|---|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
|   | Emergency <sup>2</sup> | ER4         | TOTAL                     |
| FY 2020   | \$4,955,432            | —           | \$4,955,432               |
| FY 2021   | \$10,600,000           | \$2,000,000 | \$12,600,000 <sup>3</sup> |

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September, 1, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.

<sup>3</sup> Does not include funding for third party monitoring activities.